

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 540

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant Lee Roy Watts
for his meritorious service to the citizens of
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor the memory of those exemplary public servants who dedicated their lives to protecting their fellow citizens and preserving the public safety; and

WHEREAS, the late retired Sergeant Lee Roy Watts was one such estimable person; he was a dedicated servant to the people of Tennessee, who served with distinction for twenty-four years with the Tennessee Highway Patrol; and

WHEREAS, before his much deserved retirement in 1988, Sergeant Watts was an active and important part of the Washington County community and his profession; and

WHEREAS, a remarkable man and a highly respected officer with a reputation for being "tough," Sergeant Watts performed his duties with the utmost dignity and respect and served as a shining example of what all State troopers should aspire to become; and

WHEREAS, Lee Roy Watts was born August 8, 1928, to Elsie and Hartsell Watts in the South Central community of Washington County; and

WHEREAS, as a teenager, he helped his father farm his family's twenty acres of land, which he later purchased and continued to farm until 2000; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, Sergeant Watts served his country with honor and valor during World War II, after joining the United States Army Air Force at age sixteen; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, Sergeant Watts returned to the States and worked as a millwright in the logging camps of California. He then returned to his home in Washington County and was joined in marriage to the former Jessie Mae Wright of the neighboring Conklin community; they moved to Johnson City and were both employed by Leon-Ferenbach, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1950s, Sergeant Watts served for several years on the Johnson City Police Department before joining the Tennessee Highway Patrol in 1964; he was the first Tennessee Highway Patrolman to be stationed in his home county; and

WHEREAS, Lee Roy Watts was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in Washington and Unicoi counties in 1975; he later declined the opportunity for further promotions, wishing to continue his assignment in Washington County, which he served until his retirement in 1988; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Sergeant Watts distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest ability and integrity, leaving behind an indelible legacy of respect and commitment to the citizens of Washington County, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Lee Roy Watts exemplified the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend the actions and honor the memory of the late retired Sergeant Lee Roy Watts for his astute and meritorious service to the citizens of Washington County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.